

Evening Telegraph PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED) AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet), or fifteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1869.

OUR TRUE COLORS.

A SMALL sheet published at Harrisburg, and known as the Telegraph, under the caption of "Sailing under False Colors," indulges in the following brilliant tirade, which we reproduce in full, with its own italicizings:—

"It has for some time past been intimated to us that THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, of Philadelphia, was in the market for sale to any party that felt disposed to become its purchaser. We were induced to believe these intimations from its evident and frequent attempts to levy blackmail on Governor Geary. Failing in obtaining purchase money from either Governor Geary or the Republican State Central Committee, it has probably looked in another direction, with apparently better success. We have no cause to complain if the proprietors and editors of that journal sell themselves to the devil, if they are so disposed, and can profit anything by the operation. That is their affair, not ours. But we have a right to complain of their sailing under false colors. For months we have ceased to regard the Philadelphia TELEGRAPH as a Republican journal, notwithstanding its Republican professions. The pirates Semmes and Moffit were just as honest in their professions when they hoisted the Stars and Stripes for the purpose of deception, as is the pirate who when it sails under the Republican flag. The object is precisely the same in both cases. The pirates named were in the same service during the late war as is the Philadelphia TELEGRAPH at the present time. It is doing more for the Democracy under its false colors, or piratical flag, than Democratic papers, and we do not hesitate to expose its flimsy disguise. We intended long ago to have raised our warning voice against its false pretenses; and only regret that we have neglected that duty so long. We now advise those having that paper in charge to take down their false colors, and hoist the name of Asa Packer at their masthead. There is where it belongs, and where it should be. We also advise every Republican paper in the State to warn its readers, when they see quotations in Democratic journals from the Philadelphia EVENING TELEGRAPH, and represented as being from a Radical or Republican sheet, that it is a barefaced and gross deception; and that the Philadelphia TELEGRAPH is decidedly and emphatically in the interest of Asa Packer and the Democratic party."

Before we devote our attention to the above article, we desire to throw some light on the source from which it emanates. The Harrisburg Telegraph is published by one George Bergner, to whom we can do full justice only by stating what every person familiar with the iniquities of the State capital will fully corroborate, that he is one of the most notorious and unscrupulous jobbers that has ever settled down in that place for the purpose of preying upon the public spoils. During the administration of Mr. Lincoln he held the position of Postmaster of Harrisburg, and was again appointed to that position by General Grant, against the earnest protest of many of the best men in the central part of the State. Thus, in the first place, he makes a fair living from the General Government, and we must expect to find him entirely subservient to the politicians by whose influence he secured and continues to hold his office.

But the compensation which he receives from the Federal Government is a mere drop in the bucket compared with the amount which he extorts and extracts from the State Treasury. For a number of years past he has published, at the expense of the State, what is known as "The Legislative Record," and which purports to be a full photographic report of the debates of the two houses of the State Legislature. To show what great service he does the State in the publication of this work, we will cite one or two samples of the manner in which he manipulates the labors of his reporters, in the interest of the unscrupulous plunderers who have brought our Legislature into such disrepute. On the 20th of last January, when the bill affecting the office of the Receiver of Taxes in this city was under discussion, in the House of Representatives, Elisha W. Davis delivered himself of some remarks, of which the following is the report as published in all the daily papers of this city on the following day:—

"If Mr. Melloy went into office, he would have the appointment of collectors to serve for one year, and these would be ready to issue bogus tax receipts enough to do great damage to the Republic at the next election. So far as the new party was concerned, the Dispatch was not Republican, for its editor was a staunch Democrat, and there was no use in quoting other reports of which nature I never supported the candidates of the party. At least two well-known Republican authorities, the Press and North American, had expressed no dissatisfaction."

And now for the manner in which Bergner, in his "Legislative Record," contorts this passage in Davis' speech:—

"I care not how he refers to the papers. He (Mr. Melloy) may believe what he pleases of what he sees in the Sunday Dispatch. No man can truthfully accuse the Republican party of what has been brought to the floor of the Democratic party. I do not say that paper pretends to be neutral. It is not a Republican paper, and the gentleman knows it. You will not find any opposition to this bill in any of the Republican papers published in Philadelphia. I refer you to the Press, to the North American, and all such papers as that."

It will be seen that Davis' assertion that the editor of the Sunday Dispatch is "a staunch Democrat," and his stigmatizing certain other papers of this city, including THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, as "guerilla sheets," were quietly expunged by Bergner from the official report of the debate, thus permitting Davis to refer to the official record as a proof that he had been wilfully and maliciously misquoted and misrepresented by the press of this city.

So much for the manner in which Bergner has acted as historiographer of our immaculate law-makers. And now for the manner in which he has been paid for expurgating the official record, and for sundry and divers other little jobs. These are so numerous and so frequently disguised and covered up that it is impossible to detect them all, but in the Auditor-General's report upon the State Finances for the year ending November 30, 1868, we find the following items of receipts from the State Treasury by him:—

Table with 2 columns: Description of services and Amount. Includes items like '35 copies of Purdon's Digest for Senate', '40 copies of Ziegler's Manual for Senate', etc.

Total for year.....\$58,090-19 Thus it will be seen that Bergner received from the State Government, within a single year, over \$53,000 for services which were practically worthless. About \$7500 alone were received by him for certain advertising in his paper, which, in consequence of its meagre circulation, was equivalent to an actual throwing away of the money; and full \$32,745 for garbling the debates of the Legislature in the manner we have set forth above.

Our readers can now see the nature of the source from which springs the above assault upon the loyalty and Republicanism of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH. The rings and cliques for whom Bergner acts as the mouthpiece have nothing to say in the management of this journal, and it is quite natural that they should endeavor to make it appear that they have sold out to Asa Packer and the Democratic party, and are no better than the pirates Semmes and Moffit. But those who have been steady readers of this journal since its foundation have not mistaken the colors under which we have always sailed, are still sailing, and intend to continue to sail. With the true principles of the great war party of the Union we are still, as we have always been, in hearty sympathy. Above all things, we desire to witness the triumphant success of the Republican party, and to contribute to its success in every possible way. For this reason we are not disposed to uphold any of the incompetent, intriguing, and unscrupulous political tricksters who are endeavoring to render the Republican party of this city and State a mere stepping stone through whose agency they can raise themselves high enough to get their fingers into the public treasury and the pockets of the people. If they succeed in the future as they have succeeded in the past, the party is doomed, and if the honest and respectable members of the party permit such to be its fate, its fate will be just what it deserves. We have been endeavoring to contribute our share towards its purification, conscious that we have the sympathy and support of the best elements which enter into it, and we shall continue in our present course, confident that honesty and capacity will prevail in the end.

THE WAREHOUSING SYSTEM.

At a late meeting of the Board of Trade a report attacking the warehousing system was presented. It wound up, however, with a "lame and impotent conclusion," for, instead of recommending the abolition of a system denounced as injurious to American interests, it merely proposed the passage of a law providing that, upon the withdrawal of merchandise for consumption, the importers should be charged with "interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum upon the whole amount of the duties upon such goods, wares, or merchandise, from the time of the entry of such goods for warehousing until the withdrawal of the same for consumption."

This proposition was justly denounced by one speaker as a petty and irritating exaction, while several others defended the warehousing system, and the consideration of the subject was finally postponed until the next meeting.

The pretext for the proposed new measure is that the Government, by failing to charge interest on imported goods from the moment they are warehoused, gives a donation equal to the amount of the proposed charge to foreign manufacturers and producers. This idea is wholly fallacious, for the Government simply abstains from a small-potato warfare on its own declared policy and from imposing an additional burthen, in a contemptible form, upon American consumers.

Goods in warehouse are properly made to pay all the expenses of storage and supervision, and the owners or importers of merchandise necessarily lose the interest on the value of their goods during the period that they remain in warehouse; but there is no plausible reason for adding to these charges an additional governmental exaction equivalent to the interest of the declared value of the articles imported, from the time of importation to the date of the withdrawal. While they remain in warehouse they are not a legitimate object of taxation, for their final destination is uncertain, and they are constantly liable to re-exportation to foreign countries. After this uncertainty is terminated by their withdrawal for consumption, they are rightfully placed, under the present system, on the same footing as goods newly arrived; and it would be almost as unjust to make the proposed charge for interest as it would be to make a governmental charge of interest on foreign goods from the date of their manu-

facture. At all events, the new exaction would be oppressive and impolitic, and it would have a strong tendency to accomplish, by indirection, what the authors of the report appear to be too timid to openly recommend, the abolition of the warehousing system.

If there are good reasons for such abolition, let it be done openly and directly, but it does not become a great Government to attack what is deemed an evil in an insidious and underhanded manner. The report alleges that the warehousing system has failed to materially facilitate commerce; that it inflicts positive injury upon our domestic manufactures; that it enables foreigners and their representatives to drive American importers from business; that "the people of this country are taxed to furnish to strangers conveniences injurious to themselves; that it piles "upon the edge of the market" a perpetual reserve of competing goods which are "ready to burst upon it and derange prices at any time;" and that it "offers a premium upon foreign manufactures, and thus militates against our own."

"If these assertions are unqualifiedly true, and if no valid defense can be made of a system assailed by so many startling allegations, Congress should have no hesitation in destroying it at once by a direct law; and it is dangerous, as well as contemptible, to antagonize merely by petty taxation a system which is exercising such an injurious influence.

But the charges against the warehousing system cannot be substantially sustained. It may, occasionally, afford a few incidental advantages to the importers of foreign goods; but, on the other hand, it is of great service to American merchants, the American people, and the Government.

While it has failed to make the United States "the entrepot of a universal commerce," it has at least facilitated the re-exportation of foreign goods, and granted incidental aid of no mean importance to the shipping interests, which are, from exceptional causes, in a peculiarly languishing condition. The value of goods re-exported from warehouses, for the twelve months ending on the 30th of June, 1869, was \$9,729,066. The sum was not very large, to be sure, but a great variety of articles were re-exported, and it would be unjust as well as ungenerous to interpose new obstacles to the recuperation of our mercantile marine at a time when it is still suffering so much from the devastations of piratical cruisers and other effects of the war.

It is true that a large proportion of the goods imported are warehoused. The figures for the twelve months ending June 30, 1869, are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes 'Entered for consumption', 'Warehouse', etc.

But a large portion of the goods warehoused were evidently put in store as a mere matter of temporary convenience, being speedily withdrawn. The importers as well as the Government were benefited by this transaction—the former by gaining time to obtain the gold necessary to pay duties, and the latter by obtaining all the revenues imposed instead of taking the chances of an auction of condemned goods, which might not have resulted in realizing, in all cases, the full amount of the duties. As a mere aid in increasing the revenues from imports, the warehousing system renders great service; and it is worthy of consideration whether it should not be maintained on this ground alone, even if no other argument in its favor could be adduced. While it protects the Government in this respect, it also protects American manufacturers from the damage to their interests, which would occasionally result from the forced sale of large quantities of imported goods for default of payment of imposts.

More than half of the goods warehoused for any considerable period of time do not compete with American products, and the warehouse system performs an important function by facilitating the storage of large quantities of foreign articles entering into universal consumption, and thus guarding the people from extraordinary fluctuations in value, or an absolute deprivation of their accustomed luxuries. On the 30th of June, 1869, the total value of all goods remaining in warehouse was \$62,427,590, and the four items of sugar, molasses, tea, and coffee made up far more than half this amount, viz.:—

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Value. Includes 'Coffee', 'Tea', 'Sugar', 'Molasses'.

In the present state of affairs in Cuba, it is not improbable that our supplies of sugar from that island may speedily be cut off. It is reported that the insurgents intend to destroy the crop, as far as possible, rather than suffer it to fall into the possession of the Spanish authorities. In view of this danger, the stock of sugar in warehouse was increased from 323,000,000 pounds in June, 1868, to 521,000,000 pounds in June, 1869. The warehousing system facilitated this increase, which may speedily become essential to the comfort of millions of American families, by not requiring an immediate outlay of capital for the payment of duties. Its abolition would greatly retard similar displays of prudential forethought hereafter in regard to tea and coffee, as well as sugar, and constantly leave the people dependent upon a thousand accidents or incidents of international warfare for their most necessary supplies. On this ground, also, the warehousing system should be sustained. Even if it does do some little harm, occasionally, to a few interests, it benefits many others, as well as the nation at large, and Congress will, we trust, be slow to adopt the proposition presented to the Board of Trade.

THE DEFECTION OF FATHER HYACINTHE.

Just as the Church of Rome is preparing to hold with all possible pomp and dignity a great Ecumenical Council, which will reassert her doctrines and authority and inaugurate a fresh crusade against heresies of all descriptions that are undermining the influence of

the Church, a new reformer has made his appearance in a protest against the doctrines and practices of Rome. Pere Hyacinthe, the great Carmelite monk, the most eloquent Frenchman of the day, whose broad and liberal views and fervent religious enthusiasm have been the wonder and admiration of the usanda, and who wields more personal influence than any preacher in the ranks of the Roman clergy, has written a letter in which he announces his abandonment of his convent, and his determination no longer to preach as heretofore in the Cathedral of Notre Dame of Paris, giving as his reasons that he cannot obey the orders of the Holy See, and entering a protest before the Pope and Council against the doctrines and practices of the Roman Church, which he contends are not in accordance with the principles of Christianity.

The secession of such a man as Pere Hyacinthe is as heavy a blow as the Church could well have received at this juncture, and it will be well for Catholicism if the great council will candidly and dispassionately consider the reasons for this defection. Pere Hyacinthe is the representative—more advanced in his views, possibly, than the majority—of a very large class of French and German Catholics, who are dissatisfied with having the whole government of the Church at Rome in the hands of the Italian clergy. Men like Pere Hyacinthe mingle more with the world than do their Italian brethren, and they are able to study men as they exist in the present age; they are familiar with the currents of modern thought and ideas; and they understand plainly enough that if the Church is to battle successfully with its antagonists, it will have to abandon some of its obsolete ideas and practices, and bring itself to a realizing sense of the fact that things have changed since the time when the thunderbolts of Rome made thrones tremble.

The letter of Pere Hyacinthe has caused a profound sensation in France, and it is taken as a sign of trouble to come when the council commences its discussions. The secular journals, for the most part, commend the great preacher for his bold and fearless stand, while the religious press laments his secession. One journal says, referring to his letter, that "no such language has been heard in the French Church since the middle ages," which is true enough, but times have changed greatly since the middle ages, and the Church is impotent to suppress such a reformer as Pere Hyacinthe, who having now declared himself plainly as opposed to the principles and practices of the Church, will have less hesitation than ever in attacking the evils which he desires to see reformed. The defection of Pere Hyacinthe, as we understand it, does not necessarily mean an abandonment of the Catholic religion, but it is rather a protest against the abuses which have crept in, and which are destroying the influence of the Church. This was the attitude of the early Reformers, and Protestantism, as we know it, is rather the result of the infatuated action of the Church itself than of any desire of the Reformers to separate themselves from its communion. Pere Hyacinthe is the representative of the popular feeling in France, and he is the opponent of the Ultramontanism which is patronized by the Emperor, and through her by such of the aristocracy as profess to have any religion at all. His protest is a significant sign of the times, and it will be interesting to note the effect it will produce in the Church itself, and upon those branches of it which are jealous of the preponderance of Italian influence in its councils.

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